



General Assembly

February Session, 2008

***Raised Bill No. 666***

LCO No. 3035

\*03035\_\_\_\_\_HS\_\*

Referred to Committee on Human Services

Introduced by:  
(HS)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE REDUCTION OF CHILD POVERTY.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1       Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2008*) (a) The Office of Policy and  
2       Management, in conjunction with the Department of Social Services,  
3       shall, within available appropriations, establish a fatherhood grant  
4       program to provide grants to municipalities to encourage and promote  
5       the positive involvement of low-income fathers in raising their  
6       children by providing assistance and support services for such fathers.
- 7       (b) The Office of Policy and Management shall award grants to  
8       municipalities under this section for programs and services that  
9       provide (1) employment and training opportunities for low-income  
10      fathers to increase the earning capacity of such fathers; (2) classes in  
11      parenting and financial management; and (3) other support services  
12      and programs that promote responsible parenting, financial stability,  
13      and communication and interaction between fathers and their  
14      children.
- 15      (c) Applicants for grants provided pursuant to this section shall  
16      apply annually to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and

17 Management at such time and in such manner as the secretary  
18 prescribes. The secretary shall require a grantee to (1) implement  
19 accountability measures and results-based outcomes as a condition of  
20 being awarded a grant; and (2) leverage funds through existing  
21 resources and collaboration with community-based and nonprofit  
22 organizations in the municipality. The secretary may establish  
23 additional criteria for the award of grants pursuant to this section.

24 (d) Not later than July 1, 2009, and annually thereafter, the Secretary  
25 of the Office of Policy and Management shall report, in accordance  
26 with section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing  
27 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
28 relating to human services on the grant program's effectiveness in  
29 achieving the goals specified in subsection (a) of this section.

30 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2008*) (a) The Department of  
31 Education, in collaboration with the youth futures committee  
32 established pursuant to section 1 of public act 06-182, shall, within  
33 available appropriations, establish a grant program to provide grants  
34 to five municipalities with a population greater than one hundred  
35 thousand to improve the educational and career outcomes for minority  
36 male youths in such municipalities. Grants awarded under this section  
37 shall be used to provide such youths with access to (1) educational and  
38 career mentoring programs; and (2) classes on leadership skills,  
39 resume writing and interviewing skills, conflict resolution, citizenship  
40 and personal accountability, including sexual responsibility.

41 (b) Applicants for grants provided pursuant to this section shall  
42 apply annually to the Commissioner of Education at such time and in  
43 such manner as the commissioner prescribes. The Department of  
44 Education may retain up to five per cent of the funds appropriated to  
45 administer the program.

46 (c) Not later than July 1, 2009, and annually thereafter, the  
47 Commissioner of Education shall report, in accordance with section 11-  
48 4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the

49 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human  
50 services, education and appropriations on the efficacy of the grant  
51 program in improving the educational and career outcomes of such  
52 youths.

53       Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) The Department of Social Services shall  
54 develop a plan to implement an on-line application for the food stamp  
55 program. Not later than September 1, 2008, the department shall  
56 report, in accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, on the  
57 plan to the Governor and to the joint standing committee of the  
58 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human  
59 services. Such report shall include the cost of such plan and document  
60 the availability of federal resources to fund such plan.

61       Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than September 1,  
62 2008, the Department of Social Services, within available  
63 appropriations, shall make available a prescreening tool on the  
64 department's web site to aid potential food stamp program applicants  
65 in determining their eligibility for the program.

66       Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2008*) (a) The Department of Social  
67 Services shall, within available appropriations, administer a  
68 competitive grant program to provide grants to municipalities with a  
69 high rate of teen pregnancy and school dropouts to fund programs to  
70 reduce teen pregnancy and promote positive youth development.

71       (b) Applicants for grants shall apply annually to the Commissioner  
72 of Social Services at such time and in such manner as the commissioner  
73 prescribes. The commissioner shall require a grantee to implement  
74 research-based programs focused on reducing and preventing teen  
75 pregnancy and preparing youth for college, employment and  
76 citizenship, and to demonstrate its plans to leverage funds through  
77 existing resources and collaboration with community providers,  
78 schools and other public and private partnerships. The commissioner  
79 may develop additional criteria for the awarding of grants under this  
80 section. The Department of Social Services may seek private funds for

81 the program and retain up to five per cent of the funds appropriated to  
82 administer the program.

83 (c) Grants awarded under this section shall be used to fund: (1)  
84 Career planning and mentoring; (2) health and sex education; (3)  
85 enrichment activities; (4) violence prevention; (5) peer network and  
86 support; (6) school advocacy and tutoring; (7) mental health  
87 counseling; (8) drug and alcohol risk assessment; and (9) life skills  
88 development.

89 (d) Not later than July 1, 2009, and annually thereafter, the  
90 commissioner shall report, in accordance with section 11-4a of the  
91 general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General  
92 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human services on  
93 the program's effectiveness in reducing teen pregnancy and achieving  
94 academic success and other positive outcomes for youth participating  
95 in the program.

96 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2008*) The Department of Social  
97 Services, in conjunction with the Departments of Education and  
98 Children and Families and the Children's Trust Fund, shall establish,  
99 within available appropriations, a work readiness pilot program for  
100 first-time mothers with children under the age of one who are exempt  
101 from the work participation requirements of the temporary assistance  
102 for needy families program. The pilot program shall focus on strategies  
103 to achieve the following goals: (1) Improve the literacy skills and basic  
104 educational levels of the parent; (2) promote the participation of the  
105 parent with her child's education; (3) allow a child to reach his or her  
106 full educational potential; (4) move families toward self-sufficiency  
107 and out of poverty; and (5) provide opportunities for the parent to  
108 obtain education, skills and knowledge necessary to obtain  
109 employment after the exemption period is over.

110 (b) The pilot program shall be conducted in up to five  
111 geographically targeted neighborhoods with a high percentage of teen  
112 mothers. Such pilot program shall be located in an area accessible to

113 the parent and her child. The pilot program shall coordinate the  
114 following existing programs into a cohesive program for the parent  
115 and child: (1) The Nurturing Families Network established pursuant to  
116 section 17a-56 of the general statutes; (2) the Healthy Start program; (3)  
117 the Department Of Social Services' "Jobs First" program; (4) the  
118 HUSKY Plan; and (5) any other safety net programs. The department  
119 shall develop interagency agreements to coordinate programs to  
120 implement the pilot program.

121 (c) The pilot program shall include, but not be limited to: (1)  
122 Educational assessment and career planning; (2) literacy programs; (3)  
123 high school equivalency preparation; (4) English as a second language;  
124 (5) job training and internship opportunities; (6) access to state public  
125 institutions of higher education; (7) quality infant care; (8) home  
126 visitation; (9) child development, parenting education and peer  
127 support; (10) health and mental health services; and (11) basic needs,  
128 including, but not limited to, safe and adequate housing.

129 (d) The department shall monitor the outcomes of participants of  
130 the program, including, but not limited to, the percentage of children  
131 meeting age and developmental milestones, and the percentage of  
132 mothers earning high school diplomas or achieving other educational  
133 goals and the percentage of successful job placements and job  
134 retention.

135 (e) Not later than July 1, 2009, and annually thereafter, the  
136 Commissioner of Social Services shall report, in accordance with  
137 section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committees of  
138 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to  
139 education, human services and appropriations and to the Child  
140 Poverty and Prevention Council, on the effectiveness of the program in  
141 achieving the goals specified in subsection (a) of this section.

142 Sec. 7. (*Effective July 1, 2008*) The sum of one million dollars is  
143 appropriated to the Department of Social Services, from the General  
144 Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, for the pilot program

145 established pursuant to section 6 of this act.

146 Sec. 8. (*Effective July 1, 2008*) The sum of \_\_\_\_ dollars is appropriated  
 147 to the Department of Social Services, from the General Fund, for the  
 148 fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, for increased funds for the birth-to-  
 149 three system.

150 Sec. 9. (*Effective July 1, 2008*) The sum of \_\_\_\_ dollars is appropriated  
 151 to the Department of Children and Families, from the General Fund,  
 152 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, for increased funds for the  
 153 kinship navigator program, established pursuant to section 17a-98a of  
 154 the 2008 supplement to the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To implement programs and initiatives to reduce child poverty.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*